

DIGITAL COPYRIGHT ISSUES IN MOROCCAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION:

developing and have not yet been addressed by legislators at the national level. Though a developing country, Morocco has adopted a substantial number of IP laws closely modelled on most g] rch both as individuals and

to attract the attention of Moroccan policy makers to the urgent need to provide more robust and up-to-date legislation in matters of digital copyright management for Moroccan academics and scientific researchers, both as individuals and as institutions. Facilitating innovation and the effective protection of works in the digital realm will certainly empower researchers to publish their digital works and protect ovatiof t A

as research labs and research centres. The paper also intends to address new forms of piracy and infringement that have emerged with the continuous advancements in digital and cyber technology. Some of the solutions suggested in this context would empower the Moroccan Copyright Office to reconsider copyright management and make it more efficient, especially in the context of academia.

stakeholders, including Moroccan researchers and academics themselves as there is, indeed, a strong need for more dissemination of copyright culture and increased IP awareness amongst academics. At the regional level, Morocco is urged more than ever to opt for more collaboration with mor

With the advent of the Internet and developments in information technologies, various issues related to copyright have arisen. Many of these issues are still

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Repositioning Moroccan universities within IP legislation and empowering their role within the economic sector pose indeed a challenge. Facilitating innovation and

in the development and promotion national economy,
such fears will prevail.

The debate over this point should not be given much

especially in their digital forms. Being encouraged to work in an environment of sharing/shared knowledge, any student may use their scanner or cellphone to scan a copyrighted work and share it among their peers by uploading it on the net. Hence, the necessity to address these practices in provisions on copyright related to the acts of 'downloading' and 'uploading' for scientific research and teaching activities. In the absence of clear national provisions on such issues, on one hand, and a lack of adequate enforcement of the existing legislation, on the other hand, the rights of authors, researchers and academics are infringed on a daily basis. The question of who has the right to upload a particular scientific work

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More sensitization

In addition to the existing laws and regulations, there is a need for an enhanced IP culture and awareness amongst Moroccan academics: teachers, researchers, students, and university decision makers. While the IP system is increasingly efficient and protection mechanisms are there to defend these rights, enforcement is slower due to a lack of familiarity with IP law. In addition to the main issues of copyright, teachers and researchers are to be sensitised about the close relation between IP and innovation, the importance of patents and clusters, and the potentials of university scientific research and academic production in profiting from IP services to protect, value, and promote and disseminate their works both at the national and international levels. Attention should be drawn to acceptable standards of citation to protect authors' paternity rights and to the revolution of big data. IP culture will certainly be an important element in the development of Morocco. It is of plagiarism and a helpful companion to foster respect, consideration, and recognition of copyright as a fundamental principle. The challenge is not only to protect IP but also to protect students from plagiarism, which is the 'academic' form of IP infringement.

Both BMDA and OMPIC, the national institutions of intellectual and industrial property, are currently working on a national strategy for the protection and promotion of intellectual property.

again, the roles of regional IP organizations, such as ARIPO and OAPI, and international ones, WIPO and the WTO in particular, are vital in this context. The aim is to capitalise on the new opportunities of African and regional free trade agreements, on the one hand, and more particularly, to harmonise national IP systems as regards the promotion and protection of scientific research and academic works and agree on African standards in the ways of managing IP rights in the digital academic context. One of the possible suggestions in this regard is

pertaining to cyber activities and the digital environment. This is of necessity due to the growing particularity and complexity of these domains and the wide spectrum of the involved stakeholders and target groups. Also, one of

